

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 03275 301326Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 ACDA-07 AID-05 /092 W

----- 039217

R 301104Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5706

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3275

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, CE

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. COMING AS IT DID IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AT FIRST BARELY ENTERED THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF SRI LANKAN POLTICIANS OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. LOCAL PRESS WAS FILLED WITH NAM ORATORY AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL AGUST 26 THAT THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LEADING NEGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY, "CEYLON DAILY NEWS", TOOK NOTE BY PUBLISHING A PICTURE OF THE INCIDENT. OTHER NEWSPAPERS AND THE RADIO EARLIER CARRIED NEWS BULLETINS BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS IN STRAIGHT-FORWARD MANNER. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL OR EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2.GENERAL TENOR OF REMARKS BY POLITICAL COMMENTATORS IN PRESS AND ELSEWHERE MORE RECENTLY IS THAT NORTH KOREANS STAGED INCIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH NAM SUMMIT IN EFFORT TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR THEIR EXTREME POSITION E.G. PREMIER HO DAM'S STATEMENT AT FINAL FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING (COLOMBO 3065). HAVING JUST HAD HEAVY DOSE OF NORTH KOREANS DURING SUMMIT, NO ONE SEEMS TO DOUBT THAT THEY ARE GUILTY OF STAGING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COLOMB 03275 301326Z

THIS VIOLENCE. MAIN REACTION, HOWEVER, IS TO

PUBLICLY AVOID TAKING SIDES ON THE MATTER AND A GENERAL NERVOUSNESS THAT THE MILITARY ALERT WHICH ENSUED MIGHT LEAD TO A RENEWAL OF ARMED CONFLICT IN KOREA WHICH MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO FEAR. FOR VARIOUS REASONS NORTH KOREANS HAVE BEEN UNPOPULAR IN COLOMBO FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THEIR RECENT BEHAVIOR WILL REINFORCE SRI LANKA'S NEGATIVE IMPRESSION OF THEM BUT IS NOT VERY LIKELY TO LEAD TO ANY DRAMATIC SHIFT IN SRI LANKA'S FOREIGN POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS NEUTRAL ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. (SRI LANKA ABSTAINED ON BOTH KOREAN RESOLUTIONS IN LAST YEAR'S UNGA).

3. EXCEPTION TO ALL OF THE ABOVE IS THE COMMUNIST PRESS WHICH WAS THE FIRST TO PUBLISH DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT. IT THEN TRIED TO PEDDLE LINE THAT IT WAS ALL PART OF AN AMERICAN PLOT (COLOMBO 3217) ALONG SAME LINE AS NORTH KOREANS WERE TAKING IN POLITICAL RESOLUTION AT NAM SUMMIT CONFERENCE.
REED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DMZ, MURDER, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB03275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-0480
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976088/aaaaagfu.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 211862
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006